

# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: April 11, 2007

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## **Bird's Eye Views of California** **-- Exhibit Opens at State Capitol Museum**

### ***Bird's Eye Views of California***

**Where:** *California State Capitol Museum*, on 10<sup>th</sup> Street between "L" and "N" Streets, Sacramento

**When:** Opens Monday, May 21, 2007 daily through March 31, 2008 except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.  
Daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Special Events Admission:** Free

**Event Media Contact:** *Mindy Orosco, 916.802.9723*

STATE CAPITOL -- On the May 21, 2007, the California State Capitol Museum will present a major new exhibit, "Bird's Eye Views of California." Drawing on materials from the California State Library that are rarely seen, this exciting exhibit allows visitors the opportunity to see California from a completely new perspective. Offering the unique experience to travel through both time and space, visitors take in these snapshots of California's past unveiling the fascinating world of the state's ever changing urban landscape.

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Before Google Earth™, the age of flight and our ability to see the world from an aerial perspective, Californians relied on the imagination and skills of artists to see their world from above. Their rich, detailed artistic renderings, known as *bird's eye views*, provide us with a unique series of urban portraits. These elevated views portray communities that are either no longer recognizable or have altogether ceased to exist – such as the humble beginnings of vast metropolises like Los Angeles or the short lived heyday of now abandoned ghost towns like Bodie, now a State Historic Park.

Over the last 200 years, talented view artists have used a wide variety of print media to portray the rise and development of an urban West. Beginning with the earliest portrayals of California Indian villages, *bird's eye views* show us how early Spanish pastoral settlements and the instant cities of the Gold Rush grew into today's major urban centers. "Bird's Eye Views of California" will be open to the public daily, from 9am to 5pm now through March 31, 2008. Visitors can also take advantage of free public tours as well.

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***About the California State Capitol Museum***

*The California State Capitol Museum is operated by California State Parks under contract to and supported by the California State Legislature. Open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for guided and self-guided tours of the Capitol Building and its extensive outdoor gardens, the Museum is located in the California State Capitol, in downtown Sacramento on 10<sup>th</sup> Street between L and N Streets. For more information, call (916) 324-0333 or visit [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov).*